



#19

ADDITIONAL CONTENT
INSIDE
SUPERMAN/
BATMAN #19



JEPH
LOEB
IAN
CHURCHILL

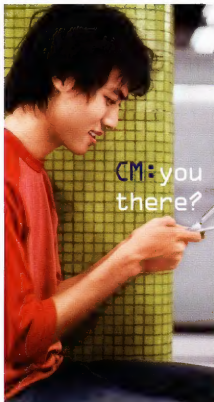
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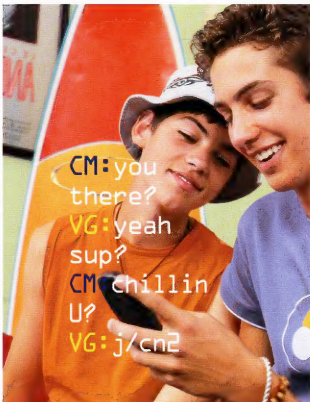


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CM: you
there?



CM: you
there?
VG: yeah
sup?
CM: chillin
U?
VG: j/cn2

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"MAYDAY. MAYDAY.
THIS IS AIR FORCE ONE.
WE'RE GOING DOWN AND
THE PRESIDENT IS ON BOARD.
I REPEAT: THE PRESIDENT
IS ON BOARD."



She has been working alone for months now.
Trying to find her way...



I don't think it should come as
a surprise to anyone that Clark
is having a hard time letting go.



SHE'S ACTIVE.
SATELLITE LOCK-IN
LOCKED ON.

Kara. My cousin. Supergirl.
She's been living on Paradise Island.

Diana called last week to say
that he was hovering again.

MAYBE
SHE NEEDS
BACKUP

IF SHE DOES,
YOU'LL KNOW IT.
AND NOT
BEFORE



I'm trying to give her some space.
I really am. It's just.... difficult.

An island of beautiful women and
a man spying on them from above and
Clark doesn't see any problem with that.

MISTER X?

WHAT IS IT,
NOAH?

I'M NOT
INTERLUPTING
ANYTHING,
AM I?

YOU DON'T
WANT TO KNOW THE
ANSWER TO THAT
QUESTION.

I JUST
WANTED TO
UPDATE YOU, SIR,
THE FISH TOOK
THE BAIT.

WELL...WHEN
ONE BRINGS DOWN
AIR FORCE ONE
AND THEN BROADCASTS
IT OVER ULTRA-HIGH
FREQUENCY...

--SO THAT
ONLY DOGS AND
ONE INDIVIDUAL
CAN HEAR IT--

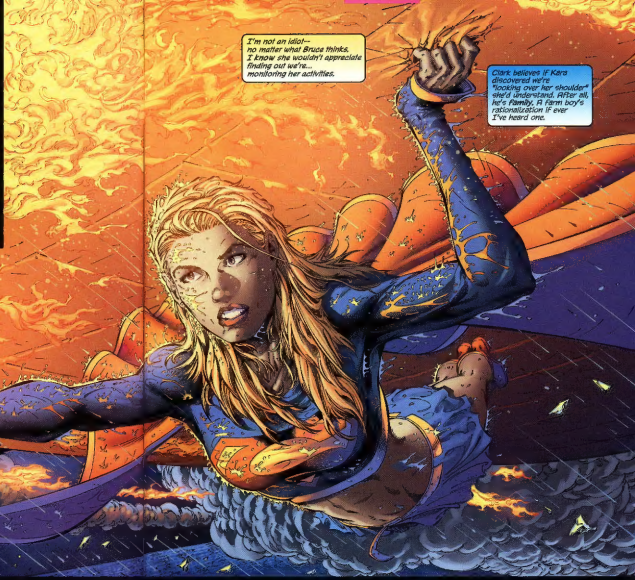
--YOU'LL GET
A RESPONSE--

THE TRICK IS
TO SEE IF WE
CAN GET TWO
RESPONSES...

...AND THAT
NEITHER OF THEM
IS THE DOG.



"MAYDAY,
MAYDAY! THE HELLZ
THE SHIP IS... EIGHTING
HERSELF..."



I'm not an idiot—
no matter what Bruce thinks.
I know she wouldn't appreciate
finding out we're...
monitoring her activities.

Clark believes if Kara
discovered we're
"loosely" over her shoulder,
she'd understand. After all,
he's family. A firm boy's
rationalization if ever
I've heard one.



AND YOU
DON'T THINK
THAT CHOOSING
AIR FORCE ONE
WAS A LITTLE...
BIST?

WHY?
IT'S NOT
LIKE I'M
ON F...
ON F...



Her power levels are incredible.
She may even be stronger than Clark.
Part of me finds that disturbing.



SHE'S
BROKEN OFF THE WING.
GAY, CLARK. IF YOU MANAGE
TO KEEP YOUR DISTANCE,
SHE MIGHT NEED
SOME HELP.

—I HATE IT
WHEN HE DOES
THAT.

For all her power, she's still new, untested.
I'm just there to help. Nothing else.



I'm reminded of when I would first patrol with Robin.

My gut instinct was to leap into every fray.

Dick Grayson, being the first Robin, despite having all the skills the others would never have, actually had it the hardest.



Before Dick, I never had a partner. It's hard to stand back and watch your... protégé learn as they go.



After Dick, there was Jason Todd. Maybe I should've stayed closer.

Maybe I should've stayed a little further back from Tim Drake.

And Stephanie...

Bottom line... there isn't any handbook on how to do this job.

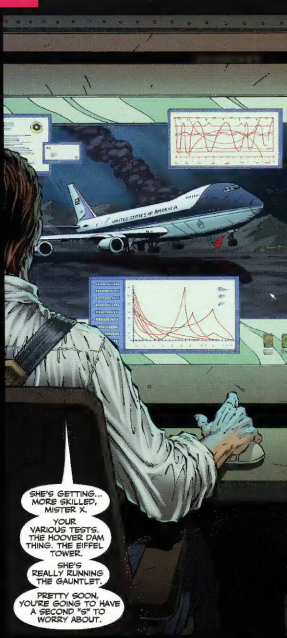


Kara is improving.

The incident at Hoover Dam.

The terrorists
at the Eiffel Tower.

Pretty soon, Clark's going
to have to start keeping
a scrapbook like
his mother did for him.



SHE'S GETTING...
MORE SKILLED,
MISTER X.

YOUR
VARIOUS TESTS.
THE HOOVER DAM
THING. THE EIFFEL
TOWER.

SHE'S
REALLY RUNNING
THE GAUNTLET.

PRETTY SOON,
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE
A SECOND "S" TO
WORRY ABOUT.

Created by JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER

SUPERMAN
AND **BATMAN** IN

Created by BOB KANE

Writer **JEPH LOEB**
Letterer **RICHARD STARKINGS**
Colorist **CHRISTINA STRAIN**
Editor **EDDIE BERGANZA**
& Assoc Ed **TOM PALMER jr**

**Proudly
Welcome:**

Penciller **IAN CHURCHILL &**
Inker **NORM RAPMUND**

The New Adventures of
SUPERGIRL
The Girl of
STEEL



And... off she goes...
just like all the other times...



"WORRY,"
NOAH?

THE ONLY
THING BEGINNING
WITH "S" THAT IS EVEN
REMOVEDLY OF CONCERN
TO ME IS STUPIDITY.

I THINK YOU COULD
CALCULATE HOW LESS THAN
BENEFICIAL YOUR OPINION ON
THIS SUBJECT IS, GIVEN WHAT
I'M PAYING YOU, CALCULATOR.

U-UNDERSTOOD,
SIR.



I'm not entirely sure what her motivation
is for keeping herself a secret.



After all, we introduced her to
half the super-hero community.

I'm sure that one of those teams--
The Teen Titans, The Outsiders,
The J.S.A.--

--maybe even The League--
will be looking to recruit her.

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MAGIC
The Gathering



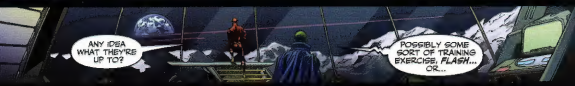
Her rate of acceleration is nothing short of astonishing.



I have several theories as to why her abilities seem to rival and possibly surpass Clark's.



I won't share them until I have more data.



ANY IDEA WHAT THEY'RE UP TO?

POSSIBLY SOME SORT OF TRAINING EXERCISE, FLASH... OR...



DON'T LEAVE ME DANGLING IN SUSPENSE, J'ONN--OR WHAT?!

SHE IS, AFTER ALL, A TEENAGER AND HE IS AN ADULT.

SHE COULD SIMPLY WANT TO DITCH HIM.

HEH, I WISH HER LUCK.

A full-page illustration of Superman in flight. He is shown from the waist up, angled towards the viewer, with his right arm extended forward and his left arm bent. His red cape is billowing behind him. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a city at night, with a bright yellow light source at the bottom right corner. The Superman logo is prominently displayed on his chest.

Gone.

Even with superhearing,
telescopic vision, everything...

... she lost me.

I'd almost feel proud--except I think
she did it just to prove she could...

Clark is going to have
his hands full just
keeping up with her.



NOW THAT WAS IMPRESSIVE.

UNLESS, OF COURSE, BIG BLUE WAS ALLOWING THIS... "SUPERGIRL" TO HAVE SOME FUN AT HIS EXPENSE--

--ARE YOU SAYING SHE MAY BE FASTER THAN THE ALIEN?

I'M SAYING



RUSH

REPORT IN TO ME, KUTTLE.

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?



I...I'M NOT SURE, SIR.

BUT FOR THE BRIEFEST OF MOMENTS, I...THOUGHT SHE WAS AWARE OF ME.

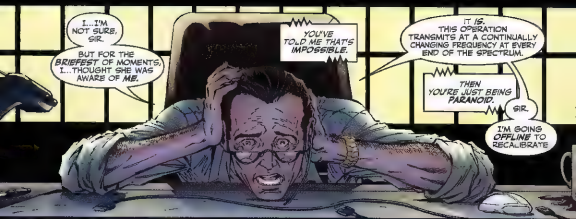
YOU'VE TOLD ME THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

IT IS. THIS OPERATION TRANSMITS AT A CONTINUALLY CHANGING FREQUENCY AT EVERY END OF THE SPECTRUM.

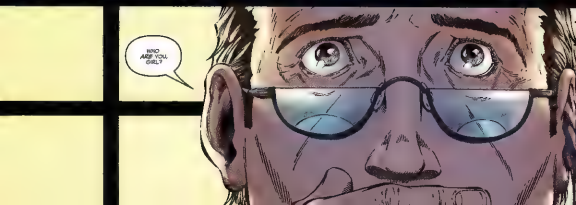
THEN YOU'RE JUST BEING PARANOID.

SIR.

I'M GOING OFFLINE TO RECALIBRATE



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THAT'S
GOOD

...I'VE BEEN
CRYPTIC. IF
THAT DOESN'T GET
WELL WITH THE
REPORTER
IN ME.

I LOST HER.
SHE WAS THERE
ONE SECOND
AND THEN--

...I KNOW
THE FEELING
DO YOU THINK SHE
WENT BACK TO
THE ISLAND?



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?



HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?



THE SAME WAY KAL DOES.

I HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE.

YOU STILL HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY QUESTION.

I THOUGHT WE HAD AN AGREEMENT.



WE DO

NO INTERFERENCE.



UNLESS... THERE IS A SITUATION OF EXTREME JEOPARDY.



HOW LONG HAVE YOU AND MY COUSIN BEEN SPYING ON ME?



I'M GLAD I INSPIRE SO MUCH CONFIDENCE.



IN THAT CASE, TELL HIM HE'S FAILED.

NOW, I'M GOING TO MAKE IT EASY ON THE BOTH OF YOU THIS TIME.

I'LL BE PATROLLING IN GOTHAM CITY FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT.

IT'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER... SO TO SPEAK... SO IF I NEED HELP, I'LL LET YOU KNOW.

IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU, HE--CLARK-- DOESN'T WANT YOU TO GET HURT.



OH, AND BATMAN. S.Y.,--

--I DON'T THINK YOU TWO ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO ARE WATCHING ME.



It doesn't matter if
I'm draining a 3 or throwing
down an alley-oop,
I gotta give props
to milk. About 15% of
your height is added in your
teen years and the
calcium in milk can help.
Especially when you're
trying to see eye to eye
with the best players
in the world.

got milk?

Big man off campus.



NOT SO BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY.



I HEARD THEY HAD A NEW "MAID OF MIGHT."

UM... THEY'RE NOT GOING TO CALL ME THAT, ARE THEY?

NOT IF YOU DON'T LET THEM.

I'M BATGIRL.



YES, I'VE... READ A LITTLE ABOUT YOU.

GREAT, I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A LITTLE SOMETHIN' SOMETHING.

YOU WANT IN?

"IT WILL BE A GREAT VICTORY,
IF ANY HUMAN SURVIVES..."



ADVENT RISE

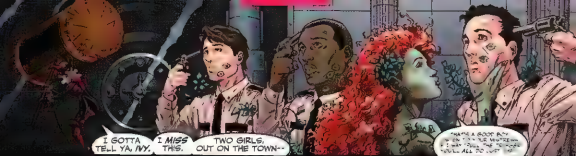
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TO BE TRULY HUMAN
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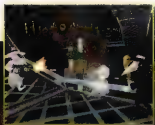
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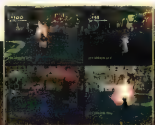
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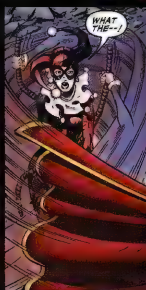
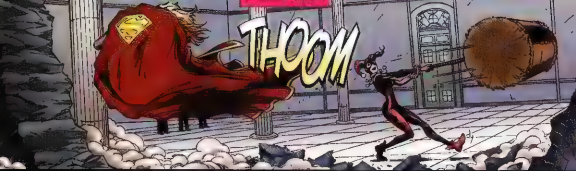


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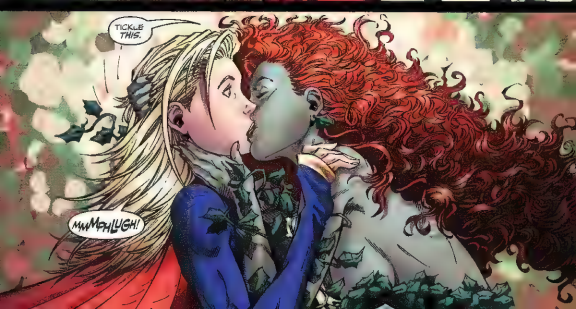
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BACK OFF!



THAT WAS WEIRD.

SURE WAS, ESPECIALLY FOR MY FIRST KISS.

NO. NOT THE KISS ITSELF.

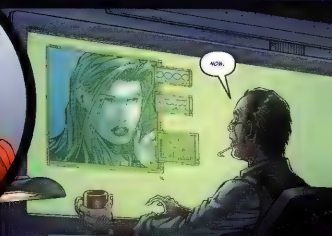
SHE ONCE DID THE SAME THING TO SUPERMAN AND WHAM. SHE TOOK TOTAL CONTROL OF HIM.

SOME KIND OF SYNTHETIC KRYPTONITE LIPSTICK SHE GOT FROM LUTHOR.

I WONDER WHY SHE DIDN'T AFFECT YOU?



I...DON'T KNOW.



NOW.



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ARE YOU?!**

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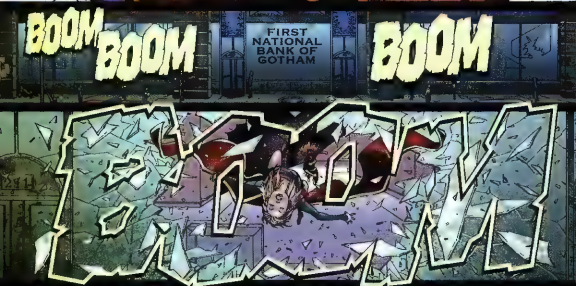
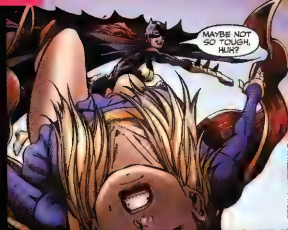


Cartoon Violence

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SO WE FOUND OUT THE SYNTHETIC KRYPTONITE DOESN'T REALLY AFFECT YOU...

...CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR THE REAL STUFF THOUGH-- IF A GUY LIKE ME CAN GET A HOLD OF IT.



I THOUGHT IT WAS KINDA WEIRD BEING THE OLD BATGIRL, BUT YOU DIDN'T NOTICE

WHERE YOU FROM THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW, ANYWAY?



WHOA! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

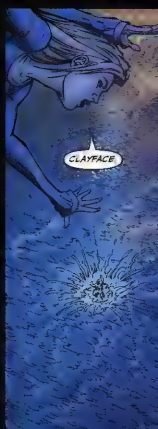
GUESS YOU WEREN'T PAYING ATTENTION WHEN I SAID, "I'VE READ A LITTLE ABOUT YOU."

IT'S HORRIBLE WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ORIGINAL BATGIRL...



I DIDN'T KNOW WHO WAS IMPERSONATING HER--

--BUT I KNEW SOONER OR LATER YOU'D REVEAL YOURSELF



CLAYFACE



GREEN LANTERN REBORN

IN-DEMAND

decomie

keyword: DC GOV

This Month's Cover by...

IAN CHURCHILL

Next Month
in...

**Superman/
Batman #20**

Joseph Loeb and Ed McGuinness return! Can Superman and Batman take on a squad of avenging superheroes who are on the hunt for the murder of one of their teammates? At the top of the suspect list: Batman and Superman!



"Strap in and hang on."
—Editor PETER TOMASI

GREEN LANTERN #1 (May 2005): Following Hal Jordan's miraculous REBIRTH, writer Geoff Johns (USA) and SUPERMAN/BATMAN artist Carlos Pacheco launch this incredible new ongoing series from the runways at Edwards Air Force Base to the darkest corner of Space Sector 2814. GREEN LANTERN proudly shines his light against extraterrestrial threats of all kinds, starting with those out to hunt down the ring's energy source for themselves. Beware his power, and be ready for out-of-this-world adventure!!

COUNTDOWN LAUNCHES NEW MINISERIES

News of this month's COUNTDOWN has certainly caused quite a stir with fans, leaving them to wonder exactly what will happen next. Keep your eyes peeled for these miniseries that will incite even more speculation in the coming months.

The chaotic conjecture amps up in April when ROBIN scribe Bill Willingham, Interior artists Justiniano and Walien Wong (THE HUMAN RACE), and cover artist Walter Simonson (ELRIC) unleash DAY OF VENGEANCE, six issues of reality-bending combat that pits DC's magic characters against the Spectre and a new Eclipso! That same month, Greg Rucka (WONDER WOMAN) and MANHUNTER's Jesus Saiz initiate THE OMAC PROJECT, a six-issue thriller in which Batman's ultimate weapon becomes the DC Universe's greatest nightmare.

Meanwhile, if you think the bad guys are gonna take the COUNTDOWN lying down, check out the six-issue **VILLAINS UNITED** this May. **BIRDS OF PREY** writer Gail Simone teams with H-E-R-O artists Dale Eaglesham and Wade von Grawbadger and cover artist J.G. Jones (*Wanted*) to organize the world's vilest. Finally, award-winning creator Dave Gibbons (*WATCHMEN*, *THE ORIGINALS*), joins the **ACTION COMICS** art tandem of Ivan Reis and Marc Campos in May for the **RANN/THANAGAR WAR**. This six-issue mini, which also spins out of events from **ADAM STRANGE** pairs Rann's champion with Hawkman.

Hawkgirl, Green Lantern, and a cast of DC's greatest space adventurers against an evil that will bring two worlds to their knees!

ALL-STAR LINEUPS

There has been a ton of gossip regarding ALL-STAR, books where some of comics' greatest talents present all-new takes of our iconic characters in their "classic" motifs, but with plenty of twists and turns added. We don't like using the term "all star" without having good reason to do so. Thankfully, that's precisely what we'll have in July, when Frank Miller (THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS) and Jim Lee (SUPERMAN) kick off ALL STAR BATMAN & ROBIN! Frank and Jim will explore the Dynamic Duo's early relationship as Bruce Wayne trains his son, Dick Grayson, in the ways of war over Gotham's rooftops.

Later this year, the titanic team of Grant Morrison and Frank Quitely (*WE 3*, *New X-Men*) inaugurate *ALL STAR SUPERMAN*. Early word is that this series will have it all, exploring the vastness of space while simultaneously dancing on the head of a pin. We also hear it presents Clark, Lois, Jimmy, and the rest of Metropolis in a way that's (single)-bound to have readers reeling for years to come!

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THE HUMAN RACE
(87 OF 71)

When Earth is invaded by aliens, the threat of global disaster compels a young man with newly manifested superpowers to join the fight at the side of a super-powered fraternity in this mind-blowing miniseries from Ben Reab, Justinima, and Wablen Wablen!



OUTSIDERS #22

When Arsenal learns that someone has betrayed the team from within, he confronts Batman to learn the truth. And what he finds out might not be what he envisioned for...



**SUPERMAN/
BATMAN #19**

Writer Jeph Loeb is joined by superstar artists Ian Churchill and Norm Breyer for a stand-alone tale of the Supergirl from Krypton! Now that Kara has accepted her role as Supergirl, what will she do with it next? The answers begin here!



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does not need a
third or fourth

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DON'T
WORRY.

I DIDN'T
KILL HIM.

AS LONG
AS HE STAYS STUCK
TO THAT HUNK OF
PAVEMENT, HE SHOULD
SINK TO THE BOTTOM
OF THE OCEAN--

--WHERE HE CAN
RECONSTITUTE HIMSELF
IN A FEW MONTHS...

YOU'VE BEEN
STUDYING THE
ORACLE FILES.

I HAVE TIME
ON THE ISLAND.
DIANA ENCOURAGES
ME TO KEEP
UP TO DATE.

DO YOU HAVE
SOMETHING TO
SAY OR DID YOU
JUST COME FOR
THE SHOW?

FIRST TIME OUT
AGAINST "META-HUMAN
SUPERVILLAINS."

YOU DID GOOD.

THEN...
THANKS.

I'M SURE THERE
WERE A FEW TIMES,
PARTICULARLY OUT THERE
ON THE STREET, WHEN
YOU WANTED
TO FLY IN--

--BUT YOU
LET ME HANDLE IT.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY
I'M GOING TO LEARN,
KAL.

WE SHOULD
PROBABLY PRACTICE HOW
THE "BULLETS BOUNCING
OFF YOU THING" WORKS.
YOU CAN USE YOUR
HEAT VIS--

--SEE, SEE!
NOW YOU WRECKED IT.
YOU JUST CAN'T
HELP YOURSELF,
CAN YOU?

I'LL GET STARTED ON
BAIL FOR HARLEY AND IVY.
I'M SURE CLAYFACE WILL
TURN UP EVENTUALLY--

--IF NOTHING ELSE,
TO PICK UP HIS
PAYCHECK.

I AM
CONCERNED,
HOWEVER.

HAVING
A NEW PLAYER
OF THIS MAGNITUDE
COULD CHANGE
EVERYTHING.

WE'RE TALKING
BALANCE OF POWER
SHIFTING HERE.

DO YOU
WANT TO CALL
IT ALL OFF,
LEX?



ON THE
CONTRARY,
NOAH...

...THE GAME
JUST GOT THAT
MUCH MORE
INTERESTING...

*Kara's probably right.
I can't help myself from
looking over her shoulder.
And for now, that's going to
have to be okay with her.*

Clark was right.
Kara did handle herself well.
I just can't help feeling
like it was all a setup.
A test.

But who would do that?

And more important... why?

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